

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XV, No. 8, August, 1917

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Registration Fees.—Every licentiate has received a slip announcing that a registration fee of two dollars per annum has been imposed upon him by the legislature at the recent session. While this is presumably a "registration fee," it is really a tax for raising funds for the prosecution of violators of the Medical Practice act. The Board of Medical Examiners have not been able, with the funds accruing from the fines of convicted miscreants, to pursue a sufficiently vigorous campaign of elimination of quacks and others operating contrary to the law.

While the Medical Practice act is designed primarily for the protection of the public, and while any taxation for this protection should be in the nature of a public tax, we find on inquiry that it is a sound principle of jurisprudence to tax a craft whose calling requires regulation in order to carry out such regulation.

The accompanying letter from the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Medical Examiners will explain the machinery by which the tax is to be collected.

Board of Medical Examiners of the
State of California

Sacramento, California, July 3, 1917

Dear Doctor:

Replying to your recent inquiry, beg to advise that among the amendments passed by the 1917 Legislature was one providing for a \$2.00 registration fee payable to the Board of Medical Examiners by all holders of any form of certificate issued by this or prior boards regulating the healing-art in California.

The first payment of this fee is due January 1, 1918, and subsequently on January first of each year. Failure to pay the fee within 60 days after January first of each year automatically revokes the certificate, and a fee of \$10.00 must be paid to the Board of Medical Examiners in order to restore such certificate as may be thus revoked. . . .

The Board expects to forward a copy of the directory, to be published January first of each year, to each individual licentiate who forwards his fee as above noted.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

EXCERPTS FROM ORIGINAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

From an Article on "The Tonsils As a Focus of Infection," by John Mackenzie Brown, M.D., Los Angeles, Calif.—It has long been recognized that the tonsil plays an important rôle along with many other structures of the body, as a possible site of focal infection. But it has been only during the past decade that sufficient emphasis has been laid on the relative importance of the tonsil in comparison with other focal lesions in the production of morbid processes in other locations, and general systemic diseases. The work of such men as P. K. Brown, Billings, Shambaugh, Rosenow and others, has demonstrated conclusively that many pathological conditions of obscure origin are due either directly, or indirectly, to bacterial or toxic absorption from preëxisting or active processes in the tonsil. . . .

(Continued in Back Advertising Section, Page 22)

† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

A regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners was held at Native Sons Hall, San Francisco, June 29 to July 2, inclusive.

Two hundred and twenty-four applicants reported for written examination, consisting of Physicians and Surgeons, Drugless Practitioners and Chiropractors. Several graduates of foreign medical schools were included in this list.

Some 23 hearings on citations were held, and the following changes in the status of California licentiates made:

Albert Bartlett Gray, M.D., revoked July 2, 1942;
Harold W. Lashier, M.D., revoked July 1, 1942;
Averell Hugh Owen, M.D., revoked July 1, 1942;
Walter Wayne Webb, M.D., revoked June 30, 1942;
Thomas D. Wyatt, M.D., revoked July 1, 1942;

Allan Prescott King, Drugless Practitioner, revoked July 2, 1942. In addition to the foregoing, Joseph Dumas Testa was found guilty and placed on five years' probation on terms.

The petition of Benjamin B. Armen, M.D., for restoration of his revoked certificate, was granted on June 29, 1942, and he was placed on probation without narcotic privileges.

News Items

"The State Board of Medical Examiners overstepped its powers in ruling that out-of-state persons who have diplomate certificates from the National Board of Examiners must wait one year before they can apply for a medical license in California, Attorney General Earl Warren said yesterday. In an opinion to Dr. Charles Pinkham, secretary-treasurer of the State Board, Warren said (Opinion NS-4378), the law clearly specified that the board may issue a license to holders of the national certificate with or without examination, but made no provision for one year's residence." (Sacramento Union, June 19, 1942.)

"The State Board of Medical Examiners late yesterday revoked the license of Dr. Thomas D. Wyatt of Redding on two charges of performing abortions and a charge of violating probation. Earlier the same day the Board had found Dr. Chester D. Sewall of Redding, guilty of two charges of performing illegal operations, but did not determine the penalty. Dr. Wyatt's license was revoked in 1939 on an abortion charge, but was restored a year later, and Dr. Wyatt was placed on five years' probation." (Redding Record-Searchlight, July 2, 1942.)

"The news story from San Francisco of how Michael Lee, 65, Alameda manufacturer of 'Merlek,' paid taxes on a net income of \$30,000 a year derived from the sale of his product over the last 12 years, would be funny if

(Continued in Back Advertising Section, Page 30)

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News Items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.